

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-0138
Ref OLL 83-1754/BAtt. ER 83-6195
ER 83-3747
DDI 83-5401/1
17 JAN 1984

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz, Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

STAT In your letter of 28 December 1983, you asked that I
reconsider my decision not to declassify the study on North
Korean society written by [redacted] I have
looked into the matter again but believe my original
decision should stand. The study, while containing much
STAT interesting data, is quite bulky and was never developed by
[redacted] into a form suitable for Central Intelligence
Agency (CIA) publication. As you are aware, we have already
devoted quite a lot of time and talent to preparing and
publishing a coherent summary of the study that effectively
captures its intelligence value.

The original study itself is being retained as a
resource document readily available to those with the proper
security clearances. Moreover, as I explained in my letter
of 9 August, the release of such unclassified CIA reports
creates political and other problems which are not balanced
by commensurate benefits to US interests or the general
public. On this point, I believe that the totalitarian
nature of the North Korean government is now fairly well
understood. Certainly after the Rangoon bombing there are
few, if any, lingering illusions, within the Third World and
even among other Communist states, about North Korea's
brutal and repressive nature.

STAT The destruction of [redacted] working files referred
to in your letter of 28 December occurred last October as
part of a routine and mandated periodic file reduction

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STAT process. They actually were retained longer than usually is the case with files of former employees. The files were discarded only after my decision of last August not to issue the study as an unclassified document. Incidentally, since [] had keyed specific intelligence reports only to broad areas of the study, her files would not have been all that helpful in sanitizing it.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

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STAT OLL/LD: [] (12 Jan 84)

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Routing Slip

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| 21 | C/EA/DDO | | X | | |
| 22 | | | | | |
| SUSPENSE | | 5 January Date | | | |

Remarks:

Recommendation please to DCI
together with a reply for his signature.

Executive Secretary
27 December 1983
Date

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ER 83-6195

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Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

AM. ER83-3747

DOI 5401/1-83

December 28, 1983

Hon. William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Casey:

On July 25, 1983 I wrote to you suggesting that the study of North Korean society by [] be declassified and published so as to make known widely the totalitarian nature of the Pyongyang regime. You replied on August 9 that while you agreed the study was a fine piece of work, declassifying it would result in the loss of so many sources of critical information that it would not be possible.

I was disappointed by this decision, and have had my staff discuss the matter extensively with members of the Agency as well as with []. Agency officials have said that removing the sensitive material would leave large gaps in the study, and that the remaining evidence would not support the major conclusions of the study. However, [] believes that no more than 10 percent of the material would have to be deleted, while Agency specialists estimate that about 20 percent would need to be deleted. One problem the Agency is concerned about is that the full report (not the shortened version published by as an Agency report in classified form) is not sourced in the normal manner, and thus any firm estimate is difficult to make. My staff checked with [] and she said that a chapter by chapter list of citations had been left, along with the reports themselves, in the files when she resigned from the Agency.

Under these circumstances, it should not have been difficult to see whether or not declassifying the report was feasible. When my staff made this point to Agency officials, they reported that those files had recently been destroyed, a decision I find hard to understand. Agency officials also stated that they estimate it would take about 50 hours of work by someone who works on that country to go through the study and source it from the master files on North Korea.

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STAT In the wake of the barbaric murder of senior ROK leaders in Rangoon by North Korea, I urge you to reexamine this whole matter. If after sourcing and declassifying the study the Agency felt there were such important gaps that the non-classified evidence did not support the conclusions, and [redacted] disagreed, is there any reason she could not publish it under her own name?

In view of the importance of bringing home to more people around the world the repressive nature of the North Korean regime, I urge that a serious effort be made to get as much of this material as possible into the public domain. I think it would benefit both the United States and South Korea to an extent that would readily warrant the work involved. It would also be useful in dealing with Third World countries, some of whom still have an impression of North Korea as an egalitarian society rather than one in which a person's class origins determine his or her life-long position in society.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN A. SOLARZ
Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian
and Pacific Affairs

Central Intelligence Agency

~~DDI-540183/1~~

Washington, D.C. 20505

09 AUG 1983

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian
and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Solarz:

STAT Thank you for your letter of 25 July and for your kind words on the study on North Korean society written by [redacted] I agree with you that it is a fine piece of work that underscores the totalitarian nature of the North Korean Government.

Unfortunately, however, declassifying that study could result in the loss of sources of critical information. In addition to the risk to intelligence sources and methods and liaison relationships, release of such reports creates political, legal, and other problems which are not balanced by commensurate benefit to US interests or the general public. We continue to make many of our statistical reports available to the public and occasionally make sanitized analytic reports available through other government agencies or Congressional committees. In the case of Helen's paper, however, if we deleted all of the portions of her report that needed continued protection, we would be left without a very coherent study.

I regret, therefore, that I cannot approve declassification of the recent report on North Korea.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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Request for Declassifying North Korean Document

Distribution:

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CC: D/OLL

OLL:PT:pm (2 July 1983)



Central Intelligence Agency
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

4 August 1983

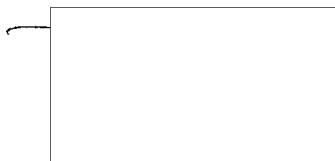
NOTE FOR: DCI

FROM: Richard J. Kerr, A/DDI

We are denying Congressman Solarz's request to declassify our study on North Korean Society because:

- Much of it is drawn from defector reports which could present a serious problem with sources.
- It would run counter to our general policy toward public release.
- It could set a precedent that could cause difficulties in the future with other Members.

STAT



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SUSPENSE 2 Aug
Date

Remarks:

Recommendation, please, to DCI together with a reply for his signature.

PER SA/DCI CYS ALSO SENT.

TO DDO + DDO/EA

Executive Secretary

26 July 83

Date

CLEMMENT J. ZASLOCKI, WIS., CHAIRMAN

83-3747

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Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 25, 1983

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
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Mr. William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

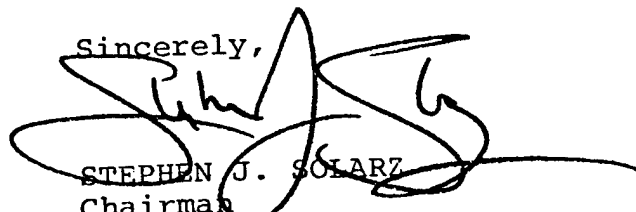
Dear Mr. Casey:

I am writing to urge the Agency to declassify the study written by [redacted] on North Korean society. I received this from the Agency to read and believe it is a brilliant piece, which demonstrates clearly how repressive and repugnant a society North Korea is under Kim Il-Sung. I can attest to this from my own trip there several years ago.

I think publication of this study will clearly serve United States interests by showing how close North Korea comes to George Orwell's description of 1984. Pyongyang has admitted more American visitors -- including some of Korean extraction -- in recent years in an effort to impress them with the country's material progress, which is real and can be seen by visitors. While few have come back singing the praises of North Korea, few have been able to penetrate deeply enough into North Korean life to show its many ugly features in the way that [redacted] study has.

I do not see how declassification would endanger intelligence sources and methods in any general sense, although perhaps some deletions would be necessary. Therefore I urge you to have the Agency give this matter serious consideration so the grim truth about North Korea can become better known not only in general terms, but through reading this thoroughly researched and well-written study.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN J. SOLARZ
Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian
and Pacific Affairs

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